

Army Headquarters. During this duty he briefed former President Bush, allied heads of state and the NATO Secretary General. He has also testified before Congress on numerous issues, including Conventional Forces in Europe, our NATO commitments and Army force structure.

Most notably, I personally got to know Dan Christman during his time as Commanding General, United States Army Engineer Center and Fort Leonard Wood and Commandant, United States Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. During that time, I witnessed Dan as a remarkably talented military leader at the base and in the surrounding communities. His contributions to Fort Leonard Wood will truly be one of the many positive legacies he leaves to the Army.

Mr. Speaker, General Christman has had an impressive career in the military and established a great relationship among the civilian community. I know that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this fine soldier.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2002 AND 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1646) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this authorization bill, which includes many important State Department priorities including funding for our diplomatic and Consular programs, embassy security, international peacekeeping activities, and migration and refugee assistance. I am also pleased that this measure also authorizes the release of the second and third installments of \$926 million in back payments of arrears to the United Nations.

While I supported passage of the underlying bill, I have strong concerns about a number of the amendments offered, and the lack of consideration for an important amendment I attempted to offer to this bill. I am particularly concerned, and strongly opposed the Hyde-Smith amendment which would reinstate the so-called "global gag rule." This heavy-handed policy not only prevents overseas non-governmental organizations from using their own separate funds to provide information on the full range of family planning options, but forces them to withhold information on the abortion option. Moreover, this policy constrains such NGOs from engaging in any public debate on the abortion issue. Mr. Chairman, this policy does not block U.S. funds from being spent on abortions. The fact is, not since 1973, has U.S. aid been used to fund abortions. This undemocratic policy simply disqualifies otherwise qualified overseas groups from eligibility for U.S. family planning aid for engaging in speech-related activities that are at the heart of the U.S. political system and constitutionally protected for U.S. citizens. Accordingly, Mr.

Speaker, I am hopeful that our colleagues in the Senate will vote to remove this misguided amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to express my disappointment that the Committee on Rules did not make in order a very important amendment that I had planned to offer to the State Department Authorization bill. Under the amendment, which I have introduced as a separate bill, H.R. 1338, the Secretary of State would be required to designate an existing Assistant Secretary of State to monitor efforts to bring justice to U.S. victims of terrorism abroad. Each year, hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens work and travel overseas, including a growing number of U.S. employees who work for the energy industry, including many in my home state of Texas. Because of the confusing blend of multijurisdictional concerns, U.S. victims of terrorism and their families are often unable to obtain justice, even when the perpetrator's whereabouts are known by Federal authorities.

Under this measure, the Assistant Secretary of State would be required to work directly with the Justice Department and other applicable Federal agencies to identify and track terrorists living abroad who have killed Americans or who are engaged in acts of terrorism that have directly affected American citizens. In addition, the Assistant Secretary would provide an annual report to Congress on the number of Americans kidnapped, killed, or otherwise directly affected by the actions of international terrorists. Also included in the annual report to Congress would be a thorough detailing of what actions State and Justice are undertaking to obtain justice for U.S. victims of international terrorism and a current list of terrorists living abroad. I regret that the committee did not see fit to report my amendment which addresses a very critical and legitimate issue. I am hopeful that my legislation will be considered by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on International Relations in the coming weeks.

I also strongly supported passage of the amendment offered by my colleague, HIRC Ranking Member TOM LANTOS, to prohibit International Military Education and Training (IMET) funds for Lebanon's military forces unless the President certifies that the Lebanese Army has deployed to the internationally recognized border with Israel. One year ago, Israel unilaterally withdrew from Lebanon, and the UN subsequently certified Israel's pull-out as complete, and called on the Lebanese government to take control of its southern region. However, Israel continues to face attacks, kidnappings and the threat of rocket attacks from southern Lebanon. Hezbollah terrorists, with the support of Syria and Iran continue to operate freely in Southern Lebanon because the government of Lebanon refuses to assert its authority in the region, as called for by the UN Security Council Resolution. I strongly support this amendment, which would block IMET funding to the Lebanese military, but does not block any other assistance. It simply mandates a Presidential report in six months about a possible termination of economic assistance. While I understand the concern of those who believe this amendment will embolden Hezbollah and increase Syrian influence in Lebanon, tens of thousands of Israeli citizens are within range of Hezbollah rockets and kidnappers, and the U.S. must take steps to ensure that the Lebanese government takes firm control of its own territory.

Mr. Chairman, the State Department Authorization bill helps fund some of the most critical programs administered by the State Department. I regret that the bipartisan-supported language stripping the Mexico City provisions was included in the final version of the bill we approved in this chamber. However, whenever possible, I believe Congress should stand in support of an Administration's foreign policy agenda. I believe that the underlying bill makes good on our commitment to fund many critical priorities. That is why I believe that amendments such as those that would disqualify legal medical services had no place in this bill. The Mexico City policy is not the way to cease abortions, and I hope that the original language—which was approved by the House Committee on International Relations without this provision—will be reinstated by the time this bill is delivered to the President's desk.

TRIBUTE TO TEACHERS FROM NORTHWEST INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, It is my distinct honor to commend seven dedicated teachers from Northwest Indiana who have been voted outstanding educators by their peers for the 2000–2001 school year. These individuals, Darwin Kinney, Zita Dodge, Mary Hedges, Judy Seehausen, Sandra Baker, Pat Reyes and Pat Nemeth, will be presented the Crystal Apple Award at a reception sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association. This glorious event will take place at the Broadmoor Country Club in Merrillville, Indiana, on Wednesday, May 16, 2001.

Darwin Kinney, from Crown Point Community School Corporation, has taught for 34 years at Crown Point High School. While Darwin carries a heavy teaching load of Biology and Life Science, he has always been dedicated to maintaining personal interaction with his pupils. His commitment to students is obvious. As an educator, Darwin works closely with his students during and after school, ensuring that they maximize their potential. His desire to educate and enlighten the minds of the young adults who enter his room is evident in the way in which he interacts with his classes.

Zita Dodge, from Hanover Community School Corporation, uses several different learning styles to reach every student. The love and care that she shows the children is reflected on every student's face. Zita started teaching in Hanover in 1970, where her career began as a music teacher. She then taught kindergarten and later moved on to teach first grade. During her service as an educator, Zita has served on several district and building committees. Continuing to challenge herself through education, Zita went back to school to become a counselor and was hired as a Home School Facilitator. For the past five years, Zita has enjoyed being back in the classroom teaching first grade. Zita has always unselfishly dedicated herself to the field of education, both to the children who were in her many classes and to all the adults that she helped become better parents and teachers.